

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6403
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 2709

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, NAC, US
SUBJ: PREPARATIONS FOR WASHINGTON NATO SUMMIT

REF: USNATO 4123

1. WE DO NOT WISH TO INTRUDE UNNECESSARILY IN THE
PLANNING FOR THE WASHINGTON SUMMIT BUT IN LIGHT
OF DUTCH "CONSTITUTIONAL RESERVATIONS" RE SEPARATING
PRIME AND FOREIGN MINISTERS AT LUNCH (PARA 2 REFTEL),
PERHAPS OUR COMMENTS WILL BE OF SOME INTEREST.

2. THE APRIL 7 DINNER WHICH KICKED OFF THE EUROPEAN
COUNCIL (HEADS OF STATE/GOVERNMENT) MEETING HERE WAS
DIVIDED IN JUST THE SAME WAY: HEADS OF GOV AT
MARIENBORG, IN A SUBURB OF COPENHAGEN; FOREIGN
MINISTERS AT CHRISTIANBORG, SEAT OF THE DANISH
GOVERNMENT IN DOWNTOWN COPENHAGEN. OUR DANISH
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INTERLOCUTOR TELLS US THAT PRIME AND FOREIGN MINISTERS
HAVE BEEN DIVIDED AT PREVIOUS "EUROPEAN SUMMITS" BUT
THE DANES THINK THAT THE APRIL 7 AFFAIR WAS THE FIRST
WHERE THE SEPARATION WAS ONE OF A NUMBER OF MILES.
PREVIOUSLY, SUCH SEPARATE EVENTS TOOK PLACE IN THE
SAME BUILDING.

3. FURTHERMORE, THE DANES REMIND US THAT THE APRIL 7 PRIME MINISTERIAL MEETING WAS MORE THAN JUST BREAKING BREAD TOGETHER. THEY ACTUALLY HAD A "WORKING" SESSION AROUND A GREEN-CLAD TABLE BEFORE DINNER.

4. WE ARE TOLD THAT THESE ARRANGEMENTS WERE RESISTED BY SOME OF THE NINE WHEN FIRST PROPOSED BY THE DANES. THE DUTCH, IRISH AND THE BELGIANS WERE MENTIONED AS HAVING "CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEMS" IN THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THESE COUNTRIES HAVE SPECIFIC FOREIGN AFFAIRS RESPONSIBILITIES SEPARATE FROM THE AUTHORITY OF THEIR PRIME MINISTERS.

5. FOR THE COPENHAGEN SUMMIT, THESE RESERVATIONS WERE OVERCOME BY THE RATIONALE THAT PRIME MINISTERS, IN THEIR SEPARATE MEETING, WERE SUPPOSED TO ADDRESS THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF THEIR INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES AND THE COMMUNIT, NOT "FOREIGN POLICY" QUESTIONS.
DEAN

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